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SOWERBY BRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



THE
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
(J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)
and
Senior Sanitary Inspector
(Wm. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.)
for the Year
1952

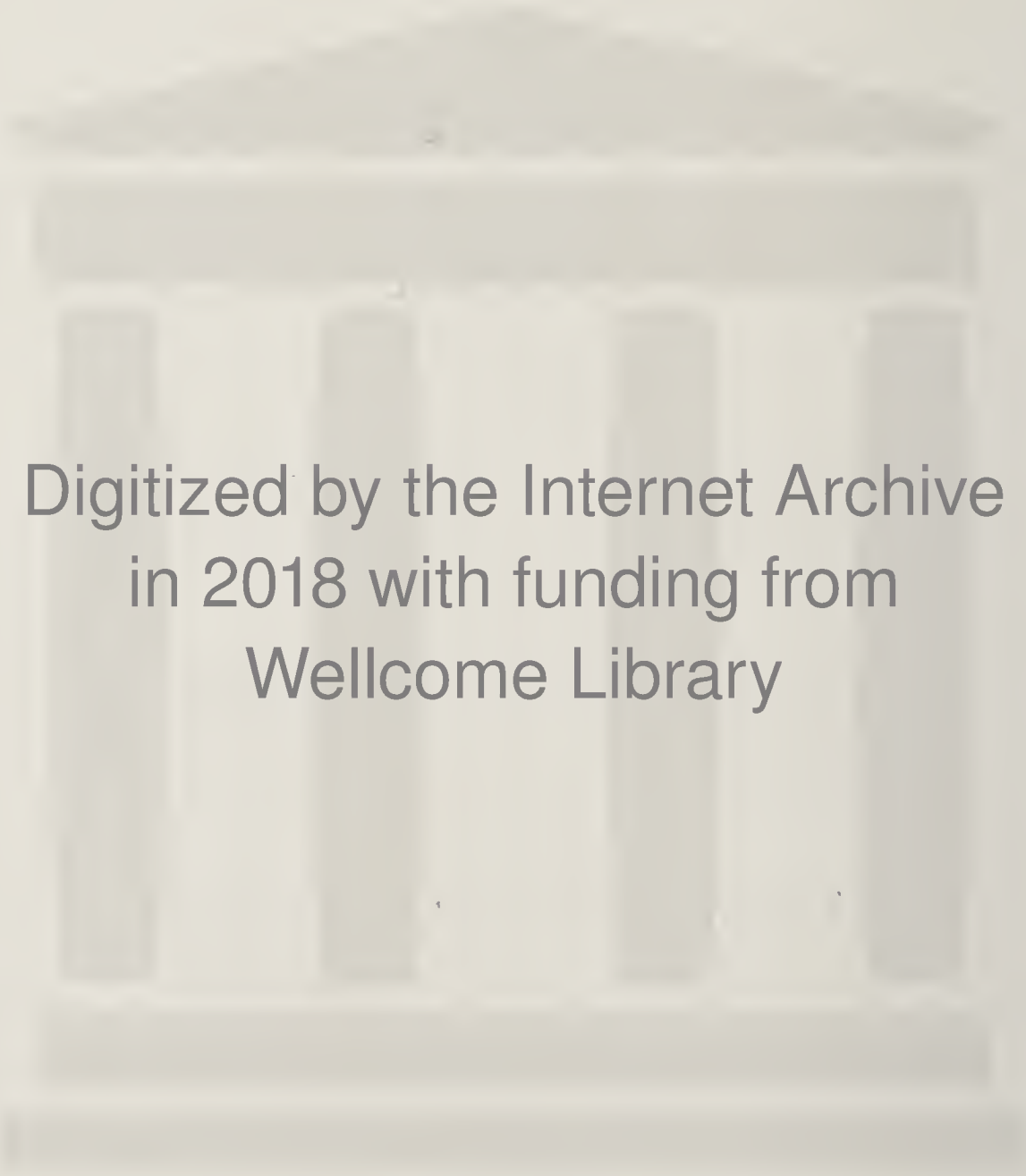
KERSHAW & ASHWORTH LTD., HEBDEN BRIDGE

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URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor F. LORD, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor W. TATE

Members of the Council:

Coun. G. A. Benbow	Coun. J. Greenwood
„ A. Butterworth	„ H. Haigh
„ W. Crossfield, J.P.	„ C. Hollas
„ Miss E. Judson	„ E. Lumb, J.P.
„ G. H. Petty	„ E. O'Donnell
„ E. English	„ G. Sharpe
„ T. Atha	„ G. Wood
„ R. H. Campbell	„ Mrs. E. Bagshaw
„ C. W. Maude, J.P.	„ C. G. Hopkinson
„ A. Crossfield	„ W. F. Turner

Public Health Committee

Members of the Health Committee:

Coun. H. Haigh (Chairman)
„ N. Sutcliffe (Vice-Chairman)
„ A. Crossfield
„ W. Crossfield, J.P.
„ J. Greenwood
„ C. G. Hopkinson
„ Miss E. Judson
„ E. O'Donnell
„ Mrs. E. Bagshaw

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

SOWERBY BRIDGE U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health:

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

G. A. WILTHEW, M.B., B.S., B.Sc.

(Resigned 1st June, 1952).

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

J. HOLMES, C.R.S.I.

WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL

Preventive Medical Services: Health Division 19.

Staff with duties in the Sowerby Bridge District—

Divisional Medical Officer:

As above (M.O.H.).

Deputy Divisional Medical Officer:

As above (Deputy M.O.H.).

Ass'tant County Medical Officer, and Medical Officer to Sowerby Bridge Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics:

ALICE SEELIG, M.D.

School Dental Officer:

Vacant.

Health Visitors:

E. B. NOWERS, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.S.C.N.

*M. O. FORRESTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

M. SOUTHWELL, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor:

B. G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker:

E. C. WROE, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.M.N., H.V.

Midwives:

- *A. G. REID, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse,
M. RICHARDSON, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Resigned 19-4-52).
- *D. SANDERSON, S.R.N., C.M.B., Queen's Nurse.
- *M. HOLDEN, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Relief Midwife for whole
Divisional Area).

Home Nurses:

- A. KLEINDIENST, S.R.N., R.F.N., Queen's Nurse.
- *A. M. SCHOLICK, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse.
- A. HOWARTH, S.R.N., S.C.M.
- K. BOTTOMLEY (nee Reid), S.R.N.
- *E. S. SIDDALL, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse (Relief
Home Nurse for whole Divisional Area).
- * Also have duties in other parts of this Division.

HALIFAX AREA HOSPITALS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Consultant Staff

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon:

W. O. LODGE, M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Chest Physician:

BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H..

Orthopædic Surgeon:

G. HYMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

R. W. GREATOREX, M.B., Ch.B.

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,
Todmorden,
October, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Genlemen,

I have the honour to present the Sixth Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration. I must crave your indulgence for the late appearance of this report. This is due to illness and shortage of medical staff and also to the dislocation of the department's routine duties by the Todmorden smallpox outbreak earlier in the year.

Under the Divisional Health Scheme your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Borough of Todmorden, the Urban Districts of Hebden Royd and Ripponden, and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has led to closer integration of local authority health services.

The vital statistics for the year show yet another fall in the birth rate from 16.2 to 13.1 per 1,000 of the population. This figure compares with a rate of 15.3 in the rest of the country and is a reflection of the unbalanced age constitution of the population, a feature to which I have often referred in past reports.

It would appear, however, that what is lacked in quantity is to some extent made up in quality for there was an appreciable reduction in the number of stillbirths and infant deaths and no mother died as a result of confinement. The risk of infant death in Sowerby Bridge to-day is less than one-fifth of what it was fifty years ago, whilst the present-day absence of maternal mortality in Sowerby Bridge compares with an average of three or four maternal deaths per year at the beginning of the century.

Another pleasing feature of the vital statistics is a fall in the number of deaths from tuberculosis. The improved social and economic conditions enjoyed by the greater part of the population during the past decade or so, allied with better facilities for early diagnosis and improved treatment, are responsible for this welcome improvement. A commentary by Dr. B. Mann, the Consultant Chest Physician, on the present day position is included in the infectious diseases section of this report.

There was a high incidence during the year of both measles and whooping cough. One child died as a result of whooping cough, a reminder that this disease has for several years been the most crippling of the common infections. A reliable anti-whooping cough vaccine is fortunately now available for infants up to the age of four years under the County Council's immunisation scheme and it is expected that the widespread use of the vaccine will lead to a noticeable reduction in both the incidence and severity of this distressing condition.

Diphtheria continues to be absent from the district with the result that an increasing number of parents are content to postpone anti-diphtheria immunisation until the child is immunised at school. This indifference cannot be commended. Diphtheria may be re-introduced at any time and a high percentage of immunised children is the only guarantee against the occurrence of a major epidemic.

My Annual Report for 1950 and 1951 referred at length to the problems associated with caring for the aged and one is pleased to report some limited improvement in the situation. The domiciliary services have been extended, increased assistance being provided by Home Nurses, Health Visitors and Home Helps, as well as by workers of voluntary organisations. There has also been a reduction in the waiting lists for hospital "chronic sick" beds, due partly to increased domiciliary care and partly to successful rehabilitation of patients in hospital with subsequent discharge either to their own homes or to welfare institutions. Pressure on the welfare institutions (intended for fairly active persons) has been correspondingly increased and great difficulty is now frequently experienced in securing admission. This is particularly so when ground floor accommodation is required, that is where the patient is not sufficiently active to climb stairs but is considered "too fit" to be admitted to or retained in hospital. The need for such a rigid and impracticable classification of patients is to be deplored but it will remain as long as two separate authorities, viz., Hospital Authority and Welfare Authority, share the responsibility for institutional care. Border-line cases are inevitably numerous, and I have frequently been asked to act as a mediator or arbitrator, not an unusual role for the Medical Officer of Health in this much-divided Health Service.

Housing conditions in the district continue to be a matter for grave concern. Geographical and economic factors have restricted the development of new housing whilst, at the same time many of the older houses are sinking into decay through disrepair. The present Housing Acts do not enable Local Authorities to deal effectively with the situation and new and improved legislation is eagerly awaited.

The public is becoming increasingly conscious of the discomforts and dangers of atmospheric pollution and a growing number of complaints about offending chimneys are reaching the Health Department. It should be remembered, however, that the **major** cause of smoke pollution of the air is not the occasional spectacular mill chimney belching forth, but rather the multitude of ordinary domestic chimneys pouring their filthy, irritant and poisonous fumes directly into our long-suffering lungs, at the same time fouling our skins and our clothes, destroying our buildings, hiding God's sunshine, wasting precious fuel and turning the valleys into steamy cauldrons of grime and gloom. The remedy rests largely with the public itself, simply by overcoming the prevailing prejudice against smokeless fuels. The open fire need not be sacrificed if modern grates are used. The conversion of fire grates may indeed be encourage by local authorities in the future in the same way as the conversion of privies has been stimulated in the past, with similar beneficial results in the health of the community. The only doubt at the moment is in relation to the availability of smokeless fuel, but I am assured that a gradual increase in the use of this fuel locally is quite practicable. Industrial sources of pollution must, of course, continue to be carefully observed and managements induced, where necessary, to improve or replace their fuel-burning appliances and to ensure their proper working and supervision.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness, patience and co-operation, and to thank Mr. Foster, Sanitary Inspector, for his kindness and efforts to give me the sanitary circumstances of the area, and indeed to all your officials with whom I made contacts, personal and official.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

Vital Statistics

STATISTICS

Area (Census 1951)	5,763 acres
Population, Registrar-General's estimate of	
Resident Population, mid 1952	18,660
Population (Census 1951)	18,770
Number of dwelling-houses	6,662
Rateable Value	£89,052
Product of a Penny Rate	£342

Summary of Vital Statistics

	Total	M	F	
Live Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	237 8	128 3	109 5	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident Population: 13.1
Still Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	6 1	3 1	3 —	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 27.8
All Deaths	276	137	139	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 14.8
Deaths of infants under 1 year legitimate Illegitimate	3 1	2 —	1 1	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births): 16.3

Causes of Death in Sowerby Bridge U.D.

						1952	
Cause of Death						M	F
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	2	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	1	—
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	4	2
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	3	1
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	4
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	11	17
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	4
17	Vascular lesions of nervous systems	...	...	...	...	14	18
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	28	11
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	3	2
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	27	45
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	4	8
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5	5
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	6	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	—	1
26	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	4	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	3	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	3	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	10	17
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	—
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	4	1
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—
Total, all causes						137	139

Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1952:

Based on Registrar General's Figures

Comparison with neighbouring districts in County Health Division 19	Sowerby Br'ge U.D.	Ripponden U.D.	Todm'den M.B.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Hepton R.D.
BIRTH RATE:— (per 1,000 estimated population)	13.1	16.1	13.4	11.8	14.4
DEATH RATES:— (All per 1,000 estimated population). All Causes.	14.8	13.2	14.3	17.0	12.5
Infective and parasitic diseases *	0.05	0.19	—	—	0.24
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	0.11	—	0.11	0.10	0.24
Other forms of tuberculosis	0.05	—	0.05	—	—
Respiratory Diseases:—†					
(excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.02	0.77	1.17	1.78	2.44
Cancer	2.25	3.45	2.13	2.38	1.71
Heart and circulatory diseases‡	6.86	6.13	5.86	7.63	3.91
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1.71	1.53	2.56	3.07	2.44
INFANT MORTALITY:— (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	16.3	35.7	27.8	16.8	—
MATERNAL MORTALITY:— (Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still-births)	—	—	—	—	—

* Combined death rate from syphilitic diseases, acute poliomyelitis, meningococcal infections, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, and other infective and parasitic diseases.

† Combined death rate from influenza, bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

‡ Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system.

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1952

Based on Registrar-General's Figures

	Sowerby Bridge U.D.	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provisional figures)
BIRTH RATE:— (per 1,000 estimated population)	13.1	15.3	15.4	15.3
DEATH RATES:— (All per 1,000 estimated population). All Causes.	14.8	12.1	11.5	11.3
*Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0.05	0.07	0.07	**
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.11	0.17	0.16	0.21
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.03
Respiratory Diseases:— † (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.02	1.21	1.15	**
Cancer	2.25	2.02	1.92	1.99
Heart and Circulatory Diseases‡	6.86	4.66	4.35	**
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	1.71	1.88	1.74	**
INFANT MORTALITY:— (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	16.3	30.1	30.0	27.6
MATERNAL MORTALITY:— (Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still births). Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	0.88	0.80	0.72

*Combined death rate from syphilitic diseases, acute poliomyelitis, meningococcal infections, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, and other infective and parasitic diseases.

†Combined death rate from influenza, bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

‡Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system.

**Figures not available.

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

(A) Hospitals

There is no hospital in Sowerby Bridge. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Shelf Sanatorium, Northowram Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mental defectives).

Maternity beds are available at both the Halifax General and Royal Infirmary. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g., Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospitals Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

(B) Ambulance Service

The County Ambulance Service (Divisional Depot at Brighouse—telephone Brighouse 840) covers this district. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from the hospitals in Halifax.

(C) Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Services (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford.

(D) Issue of Anti-toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Halifax Isolation Hospital and the Halifax General Hospital for issue to medical practitioners requiring it. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Divisional Health Office. The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of local medical practitioners in the Division.

A supply of re-agents for diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation.

SECTION III

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

(A) Clinics and Treatment Centres

Infant Welfare

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Thursdays	}	2 p.m. to
The Institute, Luddenden Foot	Fridays		
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal			
Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Mondays	}	4 p.m.
The Institute, Luddenden Foot	1st Friday in month		

School Clinics

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge

(a) Minor Ailments	Thursdays	10 a.m. to 12 noon
(b) Dental	As required	} by appoint- ment.
(c) Ophthalmic	As required	
(d) Ear, Nose and Throat	As required	
(e) Artificial Sunlight	Tuesdays Fridays	

Smallpox Vaccination

Diphtheria Immunisation

Whooping Cough Immunisation

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	At any Minor Ailments or Welfare Clinics, by arrange- ment with Medical Officer.
The Institute, Luddenden Foot	

(B) Care of Mothers and Young Children

Sowerby Bridge and Luddenden Foot

Ante-Natal Clinics

Number of expectant mothers attending during the	
year	97
Total number of attendances	413

Child Welfare Clinics

Number of consultations by doctor during the year	1374
Total number of attendances	2850

Home Visiting of Infants

Total number of live births to Sowerby Bridge	
mothers	245
Number of first visits to children under 1 year	246
Total number of visits to children under 1 year	1265
Total number of visits to children aged 1-5 years	1964

Day Nursery Accommodation

There is a Day Nursery situated on the Beech Recreation Ground to which Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden children may be admitted, priority for admission being granted according to the following categories:—

- (a) The young child whose mother is ill or having a baby.
- (b) The illegitimate child whose mother is seeking work.
- (c) Children of parents who cannot find suitable homes or are living in overcrowded and/or insanitary dwellings.
- (d) The young child of the widow who must educate and support the family unassisted, and also the young child of the mother whose husband is ill.

Where vacancies still remain after the above categories have been dealt with priority is then given to mothers engaged in the textile or armament industries.

Care of Premature Infants

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

Provision of Maternity Outfits

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

(C) Professional Nursing in the Home

The County Council are responsible for the home nursing and midwifery services in Sowerby Bridge. There were four full-time Home Nurses and two full-time Midwives employed in 1952. Two of the Home Nurses and both Midwives, however, did not work wholly in the Sowerby Bridge area, having duties in other parts of the Divisional Area.

(b) Midwifery Service

Number of home confinements	...	...	...	84
Number of hospital confinements	...	...	...	178

Analgesia.—The Sowerby Bridge midwives are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and are provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor. It is hoped that more mothers will make use of this valuable service.

(D) Health Visiting

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, and persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

(E) Home Helps

The recruitment of suitable women to be Home Helps again proved to be difficult. During 1952 48 cases were attended by Home Helps as compared with 25 cases the previous year, and the total number of hours worked was 7,522.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provide domestic help for households “where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age.”

Of the 48 cases attended in 1952, Home Helps were provided for the following reasons:— 6 illness, 16 maternity, and 26 chronic sick.

(F) Care and After Care

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease, and other illnesses.

(G) School Health Service

Number of schools in district	...	...	...	18
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1952	...	...	...	2813
Number of children examined at school during 1952	997	this figure being made up as follows:—		
Routine examinations	...	...	610	
Re-examinations	...	...	387	
Number of children referred for treatment	...	...	137	

(H) Immunisation and Vaccination

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against smallpox may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time to 31-12-52

Age at 31-12-52 i.e. born in year	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
No. immunised	90	150	171	228	205	865	981	2690

Estimated mid-year population under 15 years—Total
3892

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who completed a full course of Immunisation 1952.

Age	0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Began and completed injections															
1952	90	60	12	8	10	20	3	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	208														

Immunised in previous years re-treated															
1952	—	—	—	—	—	24	8	5	5	3	7	2	1	—	—
Total ...	55														

Vaccination against Smallpox 1952

91 people were vaccinated against smallpox during the year, 54 of whom were children under the age of one year. Nearly all the children were vaccinated at the Child Welfare Centre at Allan House.

SECTION IV

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Summary of Notifications received in year 1952

Disease	Total Cases Notified			
Scarlet fever	21
Whooping cough	106
Acute poliomyelitis	2
Measles	264
Diphtheria	—
Acute pneumonia	30
Dysentery	5
Smallpox	—
Acute encephalitis	—
Enteric or Typhoid fever	—
Erysipelas	15
Meningococcal infection	2
Food poisoning	—
Puerperal pyrexia	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—
Pulmonary tuberculosis	36
Other forms of tuberculosis	4
Total ...				486

Tuberculosis

The number of new cases notified during 1952 are given in detail in the following table:—

Age Period	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—
1—5	2	2	1	—
5—10	2	—	1	1
10—15	—	1	—	—
15—20	—	1	—	—
20—25	—	2	—	—
25—35	2	8	—	—
35—45	4	2	—	—
45—55	2	2	1	—
55—65	4	1	—	—
65 & over	1	—	—	—
Totals	17	19	3	1

There were three deaths from tuberculosis during 1952

**Special Report of Tuberculosis in Sowerby Bridge by
Dr. B. Mann, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., Consultant Chest
Physician to the Halifax Area Hospitals Management
Committee.**

During 1952 36 Sowerby Bridge patients were found to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis compared with 22 during the previous twelve months. It will be observed from the figures cited below that, during the past few years, the number of tuberculosis notifications has mounted steadily. Meanwhile the mortality from this disease has declined remarkably during the past decade.

(A) Period 1937-42 (inclusive)

Year.	Number of Pulmonary Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis.			Number of deaths due to tuberculosis
1937 ...	...	...	11	11
1938 ...	...	...	8	6
1939 ...	...	...	13	5
1940 ...	...	...	10	13
1941 ...	...	...	8	11
1942 ...	...	...	11	7
			—	—
	Totals ...		61	53
			—	—

(B) Period 1947-52 (inclusive)

Year.	Number of Pulmonary Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis.			Number of deaths due to tuberculosis
1947 ...	...	...	8	4
1948 ...	...	...	14	6
1949 ...	...	...	15	5
1950 ...	...	...	24	6
1951 ...	...	...	22	6
1952 ...	...	...	36	3
			—	—
	Totals ...		119	30
			—	—

This paradox of more patients suffering from tuberculosis and yet a lower death rate from this disease is due to a number of different factors operating simultaneously; more frequent chest X-ray examinations of people suffering from a doubtful "bronchitis," pneumonia or pleurisy, and the Mass X-ray Surveys bringing many more early cases of tuberculosis to light. At the same time, improved general standards of health and nutrition, more sanatorium beds, and the advance in therapeutic measures like Streptomycin, Para-aminosalicylic acid and Isoniazid, have strikingly reduced the deaths due to this disease.

The moment now appears opportune for a further advance in preventive measures to combat this disease.

It is fantastic that **virtually no Public Health precautions exist to control "apparently healthy workers" engaged in food industry, e.g., restaurants, cafeterias, public houses, food stores, etc.** Such people may innocently be carriers of tuberculosis for a number of years and, during this time, may pass on the germs of the disease through food, glassware, or crockery, to an unsuspecting public. The registration of all premises engaged in the storage, handling and distribution of foodstuffs and an obligatory annual chest X-ray of all food workers would appear to be imperative **for the protection of the health of the community.**

Similarly the existing measures in the tuberculosis control of schools is also wholly inadequate. While a single chest X-ray of newly appointed school teachers is now obligatory, no control exists for the periodic X-ray examination of teachers. An infected teacher can disseminate tuberculosis germs amongst a class of susceptible school children, with results which may mean months of bed rest at home, hospitalisation, or even death. It is essential, in the interests of the young, that Education and Health Authorities should insist on the annual chest X-ray of teachers and all employees engaged upon school or nursery work.

REPORT OF THE Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ending 31st December, 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health
Committee of the Urban District of Sowerby Bridge

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me much pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on (a) the general sanitary conditions in the area, (b) the housing conditions, including overcrowding, (c) the inspection and supervision of food, for the year ending 31st December, 1952, and for the Cleansing Department, for the year ending 31st March, 1953.

On perusing this report one can see the very varied work with which the Sanitary Inspector comes into contact. A considerable amount of work has once again been completed, and I consider that one of the most important features of the report is the progress which has been achieved with the general improvement of the sanitary conditions, mostly regarding water supplies. Details of the work of the re-construction of the larger private water supplies and the extension of the Town's main to cover other condemned supplies has been a great contribution towards the improvement of the sanitary conditions. This, together with the provision of an adequate sewer to other parts of the area, has assisted greatly in the provision of sinks, W.C.s and general sanitary improvements. This can readily be seen from the comparison of the tabulated figures under the heading "Sanitary Accommodation." The more primitive types of sanitary accommodation continue to decrease, and at the present time only 30 privies exist in the entire area, but the number of pails in the district remains fairly constant.

This, however, I feel is only the beginning, and one looks forward to even greater improvements as adequate water supplies and sewers are provided.

Running parallel with the sanitary conditions are the cleansing services of the district, which continue satisfactorily, although with increasing difficulty. Weekly collections continue to operate in some 80 per cent of the district, whilst the remainder are collected fortnightly.

The costs of running the Department have increased during the year, although every effort has been made to keep these down to the minimum. This has been due to the increase in wages, material and transport on the collection side, and a fall in salvage income on the disposal side. Building operations continue and accordingly the duties of the Department increase but with no additional staff or transport. It is, therefore, difficult to maintain the services, especially during times when the vehicles are out of commission due to breakdowns or shortage of staff due to sickness.

A certain amount of difficulty has been experienced in recruiting labour for this type of work, not only due to the nature of the work but also to the arduous nature of the same, and I have no hesitation in saying that this is one of the most arduous duties of the authority.

The collection of salvage has continued, but unfortunately the income has been substantially reduced. Although the salvage collection has equalled that of 1951, the income has been less than half, due to the steep drop in the price of waste paper. This has meant that the overall cost of the Department has increased on the disposal alone by more than £1,250.

The Municipal Ashbin Scheme continues to work satisfactorily and this year the provision of bins has amounted to approximately a 1.5 penny rate

I feel that there is little to add to the remarks already made preceding the Housing statistics. There has, unfortunately, been very little improvement in the general housing position. Although a considerable amount of work has been carried out, this has been in the nature of necessary repairs rather than improvements. Action under Section 9 has become increasingly difficult to operate and this, as explained in other reports, is by reason of the fact that the house must be capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at a reasonable cost. The high cost of repairs, coupled with the controlled rents, have made the cost unreasonable and prohibitive for a substantial proportion of the older houses. Many of the houses of this district have one obvious end, and the owners are aware of the position, but with a long waiting list of housing applicants and other priorities such as overcrowding, the provision of a few houses goes only a little way towards the solution of this vast problem.

The ultimate aim, is of course, to provide reasonable housing accommodation for the very many families who are badly housed and whose dwellings lack any semblance of

modern amenities. The solution may be in the provision of an adequate number of new houses, but we do find quite a proportion of families who cannot even face the subsidised rents of those houses.

Many houses in the area are substantially built and would lend themselves either for improvement or conversion. Area conversion would, I consider, help to preserve many of these houses which would no longer be sub-standard, but should be quite attractive dwellings affording good accommodation at a reasonable rent for many years to come. I hope that we can look forward in the not too far distant future to legislation enabling Local Authorities to take steps either in the re-conditioning of suitable properties themselves, or alternatively, that owners will be able to carry out such works for a reasonable return. If such legislation is forthcoming, let us hope that it will benefit those owners who have endeavoured over the years to maintain their property in a reasonable state, rather than those who have taken all out of the property and put little or nothing back.

Although no clean food guilds are in operation within the district, it is pleasing to note the efforts made by the food handlers within the district to secure cleanliness in storage, handling and distribution of food. Talks and papers have been given from time to time on the subject of Catering Hygiene, which have proved of benefit to all concerned. The general conditions in these establishments is satisfactory, and the codes of practice have been generally observed.

Fresh legislation in the form of the West Riding (General) Powers Act, 1951, has been introduced. The Act became operative on the 1st April, 1952. This Act brought in many new provisions in relation to housing, food, infectious disease and drainage, which were of direct concern to the Department. Amongst the more important were (a) the registration of Food Hawkers and their premises, (b) additional powers to repair insanitary dwellings, (c) additional powers to deal with infectious disease contacts, (d) the inclusion of "noise" as a statutory nuisance, and (e) the registration of Hairdressers and their establishments. General details of these provisions are set out in the report.

In conclusion, may I record my appreciation of the interest shown by the Chairman, Councillor H. Haigh, and also the Health Committee for their assistance in the various duties which are undertaken by the Department. The valuable assistance and help so readily given by Dr. J. Lyons, Medical Officer of Health, has been deeply appreciated. My thanks are also due to the thorough manner in which the staff of the Department have worked, especially Mr. J. Holmes,

Additional Sanitary Inspector, to the clerical staff and to the foreman of the Cleansing Department, together with the employees who have carried out the objectionable work of cleansing and disposal of refuse in a most efficient manner. In addition, I should like to thank all the officials of the Council who have so kindly co-operated in supplying general information for the Report.

I remain, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. E. FOSTER,
A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

Public Supply

The Public Water Supply, which is distributed throughout the majority of the district, continues to give satisfaction. Samples for both chemical and bacteriological examination have been taken and again have been satisfactory. The public supplies in Norland and Triangle (Ripponden Supply) also continue to give satisfaction, as the samples for bacteriological and Plumbo Solvency indicate.

As a result of the condemnation of private water supplies the Town's main has been extended to cover the properties in the following areas:—

1. Rose Place, Luddenden Foot: 113 yds. of 3in. main.
2. Central Buildings, Luddenden Foot: 131 yds. of 3in. main.
3. Throstle Mount, Luddenden Foot: 332 yds. of 3in and $\frac{3}{4}$ in. main.
4. Dale View, etc., Mill Bank: 136 yds. of 3in. main.

Private Supplies

The Department is at long last beginning to feel that the extensive field work, which includes sampling, testing, plotting and general survey, which has been carried out over the years in respect of the private water supplies is now showing results.

As I have stressed in annual reports many times, it is not the intention of the Council to condemn private water supplies out of hand, and evidence of this is shown by the number of private supplies which have been re-constructed during the year. It must, however, be stressed that re-construction of private supplies is very costly, and where, after re-construction, there is a risk of pollution, or alternatively where the cost of re-construction equals or exceeds that of the extension of the Town's main, then the latter supply is recommended. Although private water supplies are examined very carefully prior to re-construction, every effort being made to make such a scheme foolproof by the provision of properly constructed collecting chambers, storage tanks, overflows, etc., there is always the human element to contend with.

May I quote an actual case where the Department carried out extensive tests for more than two years before recommending the re-construction of a certain private supply. The Department was convinced that the supply was suitable and

sufficient, and as a result specifications and estimates were obtained and the work satisfactorily completed. Unfortunately, within a few months the supply failed. Detailed investigations indicated that the supply had been deliberately diverted to an overflow, which accounted for the failure. This fortunately was very soon remedied and since that time there has been no complaint regarding the wholesomeness of this supply.

One cannot understand why such actions are deliberately undertaken. The Department works with one end in view, that is to carry out the duties of the office efficiently in order to improve the general conditions for the people of the district, whether it is in relation to housing, water supplies, improvement of sanitary conditions or even to the regular cleansing of the ashbins.

During the year the following private water supplies have been dealt with:—

1. LITTLE LONGBOTTOM SUPPLY, covering some 40 houses. Here the private supply was condemned and the Town's main extended.
2. BANK BUILDINGS AND CENTRAL BUILDINGS, covering some 37 houses and 10 shops. Private supply condemned and Town's main extended.
3. WARLEY WOOD LANE, covering some 6 houses. Private supply condemned and Town's main extended.
4. KNOLL VIEW, WOOD VIEW, DALE VIEW, covering 12 houses. Three separate private supplies condemned and Ripponden main extended.
5. PROVIDENCE PLACE, covering 38 houses. Private supply completely re-constructed, storage tanks provided, together with 75 yards of 2in. and 50 yards of 1½in. main. Sinks were also provided and fixed in these houses.
6. LYDGATE SUPPLY, covering 10 houses and 1 shop. Private supply completely re-constructed, including collecting chamber, etc. 140 yards of 2in. main provided and 70 yards of 1in. Sinks provided to all houses and pails converted to water carriage system.
7. TOWNGATE SUPPLY. Private water supply completely overhauled. Water piped from the moor, some 450 yards in 4in. pipe, collecting chambers, pressure tanks, etc., installed, 90 yards of 2in. main provided. 32 houses involved.

Although these supplies have been completed during the year the work of the preparation of specifications, plotting, etc., has extended in some cases up to two years, but more than one supply is being considered at a time.

At the time of writing, other supplies are being investigated and condemned or re-constructed, and the time is now approaching when the larger polluted supplies are rapidly disappearing. Where the polluted supplies still exist every effort is being made to safeguard these.

In investigating the private supplies, one of the greatest difficulties is the old local inhabitant who has consumed the spring water for many years and apart from perhaps some slight stomach disorder and inconvenience in carrying the water from time to time has had no complaint, and when informed of the suspected pollution is reluctant to co-operate either in the re-construction of the private supply or in taking the Town's supply, especially if it involves any expenditure. A completely different attitude by the young married couples is taken, who in many cases are taking up tenancies of these country cottages, and one finds these most helpful. No longer are they satisfied with the cold water tap over the sink and with the inadequate sanitary accommodation. Invariably they are asking for an improved water supply and improved sanitary conditions, and are prepared to pay for it.

During the year 114 samples have been taken for bacteriological examination, of which 48 were found to be unsatisfactory. Details of these are set out below:—

District	Bacteriological Examination		
	Sat.	U/Sat.	Total
Sowerby Bridge	1	—	1
Luddenden Foot	12	6	18
Midgley	28	15	43
Sowerby	3	7	10
Triangle and Millbank ...	16	14	30
Norland	5	6	11
Rishworth supply	1	—	1
Totals	66	48	114

Plumbo-Solvency: 2 Satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage

During the year the following new sewers have been laid: New Housing Site at Sowerby—Foul sewers 806 yds. of 6in. diam. sewer and surface water sewers 1,040 yds. of 6in., 9in., and 12in. diam. sewer.

The general inspection of the sewerage system in the district has been maintained and 15 lineal yards of 9in. diam. sewer have been replaced in High Street, Luddenden. Connections to the new sewer at Mill Bank, Triangle, and New Longley, Norland, have now been completed, together with a number of conversions. The extension of the sewer at Dean House, Luddenden, and Shield Hall Lane, Sowerby, are still temporarily held up. There are still certain parts of the district which require an adequate sewer, these are in the more rural parts of the district. The number of houses in the district not connected to the sewers at the end of the year totalled 479.

A considerable amount of work has been completed in the overhaul and re-construction of defective drainage systems, which has been observed on routine inspections, whilst other defects which have been reported from time to time have been remedied. All major works of re-construction and the extension of existing drainage systems have been subjected to the water test. Details in relation to the number of inspections and tests carried out during the year are set out separately under the heading "General Sanitary Inspection of the Area."

Sewage Disposal

The sewage disposal works at Milner Royd, Sowerby Bridge, and High Royd, Luddenden Foot, continue to give satisfaction, no complaint being received from the River Board relative to the effluent. The matter of the reception of trade effluent is still under consideration by the Council.

Sanitary Accommodation

There are in the district approximately 4,100 W.C.s, 16 waste water closets, 629 pails and 30 privy middens. The percentage of properties on the water carriage system is approximately 85.8.

During the year conversions have continued in various parts of the district and it has been possible, with the extension of the sewer in Mill Bank and Norland, especially the latter, to carry out conversions to the properties in this area. There has been a reduction of 16 privies during the year, and these have been replaced by 26 W.C.'s and 8 pails, whilst 4 pails have been re-constructed as W.C.s and 20 additional W.C.s provided for old properties. The number of W.C.s provided for new houses totalled 16.

The work under this heading has been completed entirely by negotiations rather than formal notice, and a contribution of £5 for each conversion has been made by the Council. The general improvement in the sanitary conditions, especially in the more rural areas, has continued as this report

shows, but the sanitary accommodation is not all that could be desired. Quite a considerable amount of the accommodation, especially in the back-to-back property, is joint, and this by its very nature continues to cause trouble, generally in the cleansing of the same. Owing to the general design of the properties it is not possible, without complete reconstruction of the dwellings, to offer separate accommodation. The types of accommodation in the district are set out in the following table:—

District	Pails	Privies	Ashpits
Triangle and Mill Bank ...	74	9	—
Sowerby Bridge	28	—	—
Norland	131	3	—
Sowerby and Blackwood ...	143	17	—
Luddenden Foot (inc. Butts Green)	153	—	—
Midgley	100	1	—
Totals	629	30	—

Public Cleansing

The Public Health Department is responsible for the collection and disposal of the house refuse throughout the area. This includes the cleansing of pails, privies, etc., and the collection of trade and market refuse, together with the collection and disposal of salvage materials which include a separate collection of waste paper and kitchen waste.

Refuse Collection

The cleansing of the urban area for the most part continues on a weekly basis, and only in a small percentage of the more rural parts of the district is fortnightly collection employed. The weekly collection is, however, becoming increasingly difficult. This is due to the fact that there is an ever increasing number of houses being built and these, almost without exception, have long walks and in some cases are approached by a number of steps. This slows down the cleansing service considerably. The Department has now arrived at a position where each vehicle and team is employed the full working week on a planned round on the cleansing of the district. If, due to sickness, there is a shortage of man power then the rounds automatically get behind. Alternatively, if a vehicle should break down, the same state of affairs exists. This is due to the fact that there are increased duties with the additional building programme, but neither the staff nor the transport have increased in order to cope with the same.

Details of the work of each vehicle are set out below:—

Vehicle	Ashbins	Privies	Pails	Leads	Tons	Cwts
Karrier No. 6	26,373	12	—	1,081	1,276	7
Bedford No. 7	93,406	5	—	1,080	1,679	16
Bedford No. 8	6,640	124	30,198	807	1,244	—
S. & D. No. 9	113,019	—	—	539	1,704	15
Totals	239,438	141	30,198	3,507	5,904	18

Transport

Details of the transport operated by the Department are set out as follows:—

No.	Make	Year of Purchase	Capacity	Service
6	Karrier Bantam	1946	7 cu. yds.	Ashbins, Salvage & Trade Refuse.
7	Bedford 7	1947	7 cu. yds.	Ashbins
8	Bedford 8	1949	7 cu. yds.	Pails and Pits
9	S & D Rear F & A Loader	1951	16 cu. yds.	Ashbins

The recent addition to the fleet of vehicles, namely the S. and D. Fore and Aft Tipper, has been a great asset. The employees continue their work on this vehicle with much less fatigue, mainly on account of the ground loading and the absence of trimming, as this vehicle is semi-automatic packing.

As already explained, the transport of the Department is now fully extended and the entire working week is taken up on the cleansing of the district, whereas up to quite recently there was a short amount of time available each week for cleaning and greasing. This now of necessity must be carried out during overtime. Owing to major overhauls of the vehicles, it has been necessary to employ certain of the teams on a shift work basis. This was very unsatisfactory, but it was the only alternative of completing the work without resorting to hired haulage. The vehicles so employed were worked more than 17 hours continuously for approximately 28 days. Certain of these vehicles, which have served the Department extremely well, are 5 and 6 years old, and owing to the nature of this district the vehicles require greater attention than in a more level area. In consequence, the maintenance and general running costs are higher. If, therefore, a vehicle should be off the road due to some defect, then the rounds go behind as in the case when a member of the team is away due to sickness. It is, therefore, in my

opinion, essential that the Council should consider the provision of additional transport in order to overcome such difficulties and in order that each vehicle can be taken off the road for a short period each week for cleaning and greasing, as regular maintenance pays high dividends. The cleansing vehicles are all of an approved design in order to cut the dust nuisance down to a minimum.

Storage

The following table gives a comparison of the method of house refuse storage at the end of the year:—

Year 1	Pail Closets 2	Privies 3	Ash Pits 4	Ash Bins 5
1948	683	72	—	6153
1949	672	60	—	6174
1950	655	51	—	6197
1951	625	45	—	6208
1952	629	30	—	6229

Municipal Ashbin Scheme

The Municipal Ashbin Scheme has been in operation for five years and is working very satisfactorily. The conditions imposed at the outset still operate, being that the first approved type bin must be provided by the owner or occupier and thereafter the authority provides and maintains.

During the year 334 ashbins have been provided free, whilst the charges for 75 have been recovered.

The provision of pails is also covered by the scheme, here 1 was charged for, whilst 45 were issued free.

From the following figures the cost of the scheme has amounted to £535, or 1.55 penny rate. The cost has varied over the 5 years, but has generally been approximately a 1.5 penny rate.

Details of the scheme, including issues, costs, etc., are set out below:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cost of Ashbins supplied during the year	638	19	7			
Cost of Pails supplied during the year	38	3	0			
				677	2	7
Bins charged for	140	17	9			
Pails charged for	0	19	5			
				141	17	2
Cost of Municipal Ashbin Scheme	£535	5	5			

Trade Refuse

The trade refuse of the district continues to receive regular weekly attention, with the exception of vegetables, etc., refuse, which is removed three times per week. The market is attended to immediately following the two market days. The removal charges have remained the same, namely that one bin of refuse is moved free, whilst a charge of 6d. is made for each additional bin, but an investigation into the charges and the general removal is taking place, and it is possible that these charges will be reviewed in the coming year. This is mainly due to the fact that the income is far below the expenditure for the removal of this type of refuse. The amount of trade refuse removed during the year was approximately 171 tons, which brought in revenue of approximately £42.

Refuse Disposal

The entire disposal of house refuse is carried out at the two controlled tips, either at Milner Royd or alternatively Daisy Bank. Daisy Bank covers Blackwood Hall, Midgley Luddenden and the main part of Luddenden Foot, whilst the Milner Royd tip caters for the remainder of the district. Both tips are controlled in a proper manner and there has been a complete absence of any fire, although unfortunately at Milner Royd there was rather a severe rat infestation. Both tips have been baited and I am pleased to say that the rat infestation has been considerably reduced. The tips have also been treated quite regularly with approved insecticides in order to prevent infestations of crickets and to reduce the fly nuisance.

Salvage

The collection of salvage, especially waste paper and kitchen waste, has continued throughout the year and I am pleased to report that there has been no real difficulty in the disposal of waste paper, although a restriction was placed on the disposal of the same during the year. Unfortunately, the revenue from this source has dropped alarmingly. I am sure that no one was entirely satisfied by the high price which was being obtained in 1951, which encouraged the setting up of waste paper merchants in various parts of the district which, early in 1952, automatically closed, leaving the Local Authority with an additional burden of the removal of quantities of waste paper not only from such depots as these but from schools and certain organisations which collected waste paper in order to realise on the same. The amount of waste paper collected in 1951 was approximately 161 tons, the income being approximately £2,500. There was a small reduction in the amount collected during

1952, the total being 151 tons which realised approximately £1,240, or less than half the 1951 total. As this is the main source of income, the total revenue from salvage sales only totalled £1,540, against £2,751 in 1951. This showed a tremendous decrease on the estimates which unfortunately were termed as overspending, whilst actually it was due to conditions entirely beyond the control of the Department. I am pleased, however, to report that towards the end of the year the position regarding the disposal of waste paper eased considerably, but the price remains comparatively low. As in previous years the entire output of waste paper has been sent to Thames Board Mills as per the terms of the contract.

The bonus scheme for the employees is still in operation, but owing to the quota imposed on Local Authorities for the disposal of waste paper the returns did not qualify the employees for bonus.

The existing salvage depot, which has been in operation since 1940, is now in a rather dilapidated state, although repairs have been carried out from time to time. Negotiations are, however, proceeding with a view to the provision of a new salvage depot adjoining the recently acquired garage.

The collection of kitchen waste continues from canteens and communal bins. Complaints regarding the latter continue to be made, but every effort is made to reduce these to a minimum. The bins are sterilised regularly and during the year all have been replaced with new bins. Stands have also been obtained in order to reduce spillage due to dogs and children upsetting the containers. Although in the past this was considered a necessity, one looks forward in the interests of public health to the time when these containers will be removed from the streets of the town.

Details of the sale residuals, together with the revenue from the same are set out as follows:—

Materials Salvaged	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Kitchen Waste	66	11	0	223	17	6
Waste Paper	150	16	3	1237	7	11
Scrap Tins	18	11	0	15	1	6
Textiles	0	7	0	7	2	6
Destructor Scrap	1	7	3	2	1	8
Ferrous Metals	8	5	2	33	2	0
Non-Ferrous Metals	0	5	2	17	12	6
Carpets	0	18	0	4	10	0
	247	2	2	£1540	15	7

Complete details of the salvage recovered since the Council commenced salvage operations are set out as follows:—

SALVAGE SALES 1939 to 1952

Year	Total Tonnage for all Materials		Waste Paper		Ferrous Metals and Loose Tins		Non-Ferros Metals		Textiles and Rubber		Cullet		Kitchen Waste and Bones		Value	
	T.	C. Q.	T.	C. Q.	T.	C. Q.	T.	C. Q.	T.	C. Q.	T.	C. Q.	T.	C. Q.	£	s. d.
1939	9	1 2	7	1 2	2	0 0	—	— —	—	— —	—	— —	—	— —	20	1 0
1940	380	3 0	240	3 1	106	0 3	13	2	2	3 2	15	15 1	15	6 3	1259	3 7
1941	453	17 3	281	9 2	90	1 1	1	10 0	7	14 3	55	14 0	17	8 1	1445	6 2
1942	380	6 3	286	10 1	66	5 3	1	11 1	5	10 3	15	2 1	5	6 2	1783	17 3
1943	382	2 2	196	16 2	125	10 3	6	1	4	13 2	31	12 1	23	3 1	1595	6 6
1944	428	16 1	148	18 1	9	12 1	—	— —	16	0	5	5 0	264	4 3	1379	8 5
1945	506	3 0	112	16 3	6	19 0	6	0	8	0	9	14 2	375	18 3	1315	0 9
1946	386	7 3	112	19 1	9	4 0	7	3	15	2	16	1 1	247	0 0	1133	3 9
1947	199	8 0	92	2 3	5	12 0	12	0	11	2	8	15 2	91	14 1	699	1 10
1948	199	9 0	110	10 3	6	17 3	3	3	6	0	5	1 3	76	9 0	871	6 4
1949	237	0 0	155	13 1	12	3	—	— —	4	1	2	11 3	77	18 0	1097	6 10
1950	215	12 2	158	6 0	4	10 2	19	1	1	3	—	— —	51	15 0	1222	19 1
1951	238	0 1	162	11 3	14	14 0	5	1	5	1	—	— —	60	4 0	2742	8 9
1952	247	2 2	150	16 3	28	3 5	5	2	1	5 0	—	— —	66	11 0	1540	15 7
	4263	10 3	2216	16 2	476	5 0	7	0 2	24	15 3	165	13 2	1372	19 2	18105	5 10

Infectious Disease and Disinfection

The Department has continued the investigation of the notifiable infectious diseases, and precautions in order to avoid the spread of the same have been taken. The disinfection of bedding and household effects has been carried out where necessary. Details of the visits, etc., are set out below:

Enquiries into cases of Infectious Disease	62
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	37
Visits re Disinfection	72

Smoke Abatement

Factory chimneys in the area have again been observed from time to time, the number of observations taken being 15, of which 8 showed an excessive emission of black smoke. Notices of caution were issued in each case, but it was not found necessary to take formal action.

Upon inspection of the various furnaces, what appears to be a general complaint from the management is that the furnaces have been designed mainly to consume certain types of fuel, but as it has not been always possible to obtain the same an alternative has had to be used with the result that black smoke has been emitted. I feel that the management have some cause for complaint, but I am also of the opinion that with a little more care, especially in hand firing, much of this excessive emission of smoke can be reduced.

I do not consider that the pollution of the atmosphere in the area has deteriorated, but I do feel that the position could be greatly improved, and it was with this end in view that the Committee applied to the Ministry with a view to reducing the Bye-Law regarding the emission of black smoke from three minutes per half hour to two minutes. Unfortunately, whilst it is under consideration by the Ministry, permission has not yet been granted and further information is being obtained. Due to the pressure of work in other directions, it is unfortunate that more time has not been given to this very important subject of atmospheric pollution, but it is hoped that in the future a little more time will be devoted to this work.

Factories

During the year 46 inspections of factories throughout the district have been carried out, and as a result of these inspections 7 notices under Section 7 of the Factories Act were served. 6 of these were satisfactorily completed, leaving one outstanding at the end of the year. The general conditions in the factories are satisfactory and it is pleasing to note that a number are providing additional sanitary accommodation and washing facilities of a very high standard. These facilities in the older mills, although generally complying with the regulations, could be improved and when time permits detailed inspections will be completed in order to make every effort to effect such an improvement. Details of the inspections and defects are set out as follows:—

Inspections

Factories	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices
In which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by Local Authority	21	7	1
Where Section 7 is enforced	129	39	6
Total ...	150	46	7

Defects Found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Inadequate Ventilation ...	1	1	—
Sanitary Conveniences			
(a) Insufficient	3	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	1	1	—
Total ...	7	6	—

Swimming Bath

The Public Swimming Bath has again been open to the public during the summer season, during which time inspection of the premises and samples of water for bacteriological

examination have been obtained. 6 samples were obtained during the year, 3 from the inlet immediately after passing through the filter and gas chlorine plant, and 3 from the outlet. These, upon examination, were found to be satisfactory. General details of the samples are as follows:—

Presumptive B.Coli	...	...	...	...	Nil
pH Value	...	...	...	...	7.4
Free Chroline, parts per million—Inlet	...			...	.5
			Outlet	...	.4

There appears to have been very few complaints from the bathers regarding the condition of the water. There are no private swimming pools in the area.

Nuisances

During the year 449 nuisances were found as a result of general observation and complaint at the Department. In addition to these there were 24 which were outstanding at the end of the year, making a total of 473. The total abated during the year was 438, which necessitated 813 visits and re-inspections. The majority of the work was carried out in an informal manner. 147 informal notices were served in addition to many letters drawing attention to these defects, together with 7 statutory notices, of which 6 were complied with. This figure does not include the notices served for the re-construction of water supplies and the like, these have been dealt with separately, but included in this heading have been formal notices for the provision of bins, served under Section 75, together with those notices necessary under Section 39 for the repair of defective drainage systems.

During the year, with the introduction of the West Riding (General Powers) Act, the Council decided that choked drains should be attended to by the Department and should not be re-charged, provided that the amount did not exceed that stated in the Act, but if the stoppage was due to a defective drainage system or lack of general maintenance, then the necessary notice should be served under the West Riding (General Powers) Act, and the full amount recovered. With the introduction of the new Act, the delay in carrying out repairs to defective drainage systems has been reduced to an absolute minimum. There has been little difficulty in having the nuisance abated, and these have been carried out comparatively quickly. Every assistance has been given in this direction by the Department, and where the abatement of a nuisance has involved two or more owners of property the Department has undertaken to complete the work upon an undertaking being given to the payment of the allocated cost.

Offensive Trades

There have been no additions to the Register of Offensive Trades during the year and no applications have been received. At the end of the year there were 29 establishments on the Register, 28 of which were Fish Friers. No notices were served during the year and the number of inspections of these premises totalled 39.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

	Visits.
Bakehouses	39
Camping Sites	7
Common Lodging Houses	2
Conversions—Visits	169
Dangerous Buidings	22
Drainage, etc.	436
Factories	46
Friend Fish Shops	38
Hairdressers	27
Houses Let in Lodgings	3
Interviews	194
Inspections for Surveys, Plans, etc., for Water Supplies	76
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	173
Offensive Trades	39
Petrol Pump Inspections	34
Public Conveniences	21
Public Houses	34
Refuse Collection	362
Refuse Disposal	83
Rodent Control (excluding Sewer Mintenance)	202
Salvage	52
Sanitary Accommodation—Defects	62
Schools	19
Shops	42
Smoke Observations	15
Stables, Piggeries and Poultry	19
Tents, Vans and Sheds	18
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	6
Water Courses—Survey	41
Water Supplies	392
	<hr/>
	2,673
	<hr/>

HOUSING

General Inspection

Housing inspection has continued during the year under legislation provided, and the repairs found as a result of inspection and complaint have been dealt with. There has been very little improvement in the general housing position, owners have not availed themselves of the provisions of the 1949 Act for the general improvement of insanitary dwellings. This, I fear, has been due to lack of publicity and also due to the general conditions of much of the property in the district. Only essential repairs have been completed on much of the sub-standard property in the more congested areas, whilst in the rural parts of the district general improvements have continued, but these have mainly been in relation to the sanitary conditions.

As already set out earlier in the report, a considerable number of water supplies have been re-constructed, thus enabling a large number of houses which hitherto had an unsatisfactory supply of water to be provided with a wholesome supply. Improvements have also been forthcoming by conversion to the water carriage system, provision of new sinks and the provision of proper refuse accommodation. A considerable number of the rural dwellings are in a very poor state of repair, and cannot, at a reasonable cost, be made fit. This, I feel, has been due to the very low rents which such dwellings attract. Quite a number of houses in both the rural and the more congested areas are being closed immediately they are vacated.

During the year 12 houses of the permanent type were erected by the Local Authority and none by private enterprise. This goes a very little way towards dealing with the housing position in the district, but we look forward to a greatly increased number during the coming year, which should ease the position considerably.

A start has been made on the survey of properties with a view to the inclusion in future clearance or re-development areas, and plans have already been prepared setting out the density and types of houses, together with the age of houses within the district.

The half-yearly inspection of all overcrowded and possibly overcrowded dwellings within the district has been continued, and these, together with suspicious cases brought to our attention, or cases which have been observed by the Housing Department, have also received inspection. The housing cards have as far as possible been kept up to date by the entry of births and deaths, but with the removal of certain families from place to place it is not possible to know

the true position owing to the difficulty of keeping track of all changes of tenancies. During the year 12 new cases of overcrowding have been investigated. None have been due to deliberate overcrowding, but due to either age increases or an increase in the family.

23 existing cases of overcrowding have been abated by re-housing. Taking the whole of the overcrowded position into consideration, it shows an increase of 1 over the previous year.

The housing statistics for the year 1952 are set out as follows:—

- 1 Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 376
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 469
 - (2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 87
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 127
 - (3) Number of dwellinghouses needing further action:—
 - (a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 7
 - (b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (3) (a) above), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 270
- 2 Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 220
- 3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year.
 - A Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936:—
 - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 3
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:
 - (a) By owners 2
 - (b) By Local Authority 1

- B Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
- (a) By owners —
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners 1
- C Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling houses unfit for habitation 7
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 3
- (3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 3
- D Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

4 Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 85
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 93
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 528
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 12
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 23
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 142
- (d) Number of inspections made 390
- The cases of overcrowding in the district are set out as follows:—

Ward	Old Cases.	New Cases.	No. Abated.	Total
North	3	—	1	2
South	5	3	1	7
Central	9	2	2	9

East	17	1	5	13
Sowerby/B. Wood	9	2	3	8
Triangle/Norland	14	—	3	11
Luddenden Foot	16	—	5	11
Midgley	10	1	4	7
	—	—	—	—
Total	83	9	24	68
	—	—	—	—

5 New Houses.

Number of new houses provided during the year:

By the Local Authority:—

Permanent type 12

Temporary type Nil

By Private Enterprise Nil

6 Housing Act, 1949.

No applications for grants have been received from persons improving existing housing accommodation, as per Section 20.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Distribution

Again few visits to the farms have been made. These have, without exception, been in connection with drainage systems and water supplies. Unfortunately, the general inspection of the cow sheds, which was taken over some time ago by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, appear to have been very few, and a considerable number of the farms producing and retailing raw milk have not been visited. Greater attention seems to have been given to the designated producers. This is most unfortunate, as it is felt that the standard of cleanliness should also be high on the non-designated farms. Inspections and visits have been made to the pasteurising establishment within the district, and generally speaking the standard of cleanliness has been good.

Several complaints of dirty bottles have been received, and these have been investigated. The results generally from the bottle washing machines have been highly satisfactory. It is interesting to note once again an increase in the number of dealers in the designated milks, with a consequent increase in the consumption of either Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised Milk. During the year 12 further applications were received, bringing the total at the end of the year up 61. Details of these are as follows:—

Supplementary Licences to Retail Pasteurised Milk	...	3
Supplementary Licences to Retail Tuberculin Tested Milk		3
Supplementary Licences to Retail T.T./Pasteurised Milk		1
Supplementary Licences to Retail Sterilised Milk	...	3
Dealer's Licence to use the designation T.T./Pasteurised		16
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Pasteurised	...	14
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Sterilised	...	21

One of the most disturbing features has been the dumping of bottles and crated milk in yards and vacant plots of land. Action has been taken in several instances, with very satisfactory results, but there still persists a minority who continue with this practice, moving from one unsatisfactory site to another. This practice, unfortunately, is adopted by dairies outside the district. It is hoped, however, that this will be stamped out in the very near future.

Milk Sampling

During the year 19 samples of milk were obtained from retailers in the district. Details of these are as follows:—

Designation	Satis.	Unsatis.	Total
T.T./Pasteurised	6	—	6
Tuberculin Tested	5	—	5
Pasteurised	4	1	5
Raw Milk	2	—	2
Sterilised	1	—	1
Total	18	1	19

Food Inspection

General inspection and visits to the food shops, cafes, restaurants and food preparing establishments, have continued throughout the year. Details are set out below:—

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	48
Cow Sheds	...	...	...	...	7
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	21
Fish Merchants and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	3
Flour Mill	...	...	...	...	3
Food Preparing Establishments	...	...	...	...	14
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	2
Grocers	...	...	...	...	53
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	89
Pasteurising Establishment	...	...	...	...	10
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	19
Public Markets	...	...	...	...	77
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	25
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts	...	...	...	...	15
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	...	31
					417

The general condition of these premises, including the equipment, continues to be satisfactory. The Clean Food Byelaws which came into force during 1951 have generally been complied with, and it is pleasing to note that these establishments are supplied with adequate washing facilities, together with hot and cold water.

The personnel engaged in the food industry in the district appear to be fully conscious of their responsibilities to the public in preventing the contamination of food, and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness has been maintained. As a result of these inspections a quantity of food has been surrendered as unfit for human consumption, details of which are set out below:—

				Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Vegetables	...	...	...	1	0	17 $\frac{3}{4}$
Meat	...	...	...	1	2	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fruit	...	...	...	1	1	23 $\frac{3}{4}$
Fish	...	...	...	1	3	0
Wheat	...	...	...	7	0	0
Sugar Mixture	...	...	...	5	0	0
Milk Powder	...	...	...	0	2	0
Pearl Barley	...	...	...	0	1	0
Cereals	...	...	...	0	1	14
Margarine	...	...	...	0	0	18
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	...	...	...	0	0	23
Total ...				19	1	25

Milk, 44 tins; Soup, 57 tins.

Ice Cream

During the year 89 inspections were made at the Ice Cream establishments throughout the district. There were 47 registrations, a reduction of 20 on the previous year, within the district for the sale and storage of ice cream, exclusive of the ice cream sold from vehicles touring the district. These, however, are entered on a separate register under the provisions of the West Riding (General Powers) Act. There are no Ice Cream Manufacturers within the district. Details of the sales are as follows:—

Grocers and Mixed Shops	...	...	...	...	30
Sweets and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	10
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	5
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	2

The standard of cleanliness was highly satisfactory, with one exception, and this matter was dealt with in an informal manner and the general conditions improved. The ice cream

in all but five instances is pre-packed and pre-wrapped. The registrations previously on the register for the manufacture of ice cream from a cold mix have recently been rescinded, and these two establishments now retail pre-wrapped ices. In all cases the storage cabinets were of the latest design and appear to be highly efficient, but many contravened the regulations regarding the provision of a suitable thermometer. In the five instances where loose ice cream was sold an approved detergent was used and it was pleasing to note that upon sampling the water in which the servers, etc., were rinsed, this was proved to be quite sterile.

During the year 79 samples of ice cream were obtained for bacteriological examination, and it was pleasing to note that in only two instances were the samples unsatisfactory. I consider that this is an excellent result. There are 12 different brands of ice cream retailed within the district, all of which were sampled.

Ice Lollies are being sold in ever increasing quantities at most of these shops, and from the sales it appears that children prefer these to ice cream. It is unfortunate that there is no standard for these, as there appears to be a variety of ways in which they are produced. In several instances it was observed that cordials or minerals were used for this purpose, whilst in other cases fruit syrups were used. Some of the better known ice cream manufacturers are, however, now supplying their own water ices and these are being purchased in many instances. The general conditions of the ice cream establishments throughout the district is satisfactory.

FOOD PREPARING ESTABLISHMENTS

Bakehouses

A high standard of cleanliness has been maintained in the bakehouses throughout the district. The general improvements outlined in the previous report have been completed, and the standard of cleanliness is satisfactory. The work on the Model Bakery in the district has unfortunately not been completed, although it should be opened early in 1953. The bakehouses in the district have been visited and inspected on 39 occasions, during which no contraventions of the Act were observed. At the end of the year there were 17 bakehouses on the register, none of which were of the underground type.

Routine inspection of the cafes and restaurants has continued and the conditions are generally satisfactory. Informal notices have been served in three instances for unsatisfactory conditions, and unfortunately in two of these the standard of cleanliness cannot yet be considered satisfactory.

Public Houses

These are generally in a satisfactory condition, as the work which was outlined after a detailed survey and report has been completed, the only exceptions being major works which involved an expenditure of more than £500. It has been observed that the managements are very anxious to complete these, but unfortunately the necessary permission has not yet been forthcoming. The washing facilities in the bars are very satisfactory, and almost without exception approved detergents are now used in washing glasses, etc. The other provisions relative to sanitary accommodation, etc., have for the most part been satisfactorily completed.

Food Poisoning

There have been no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

Food Hawkers, etc.

As a result of the provisions of the West Riding (General Powers) Act, 1951, all Food Hawkers and their storage premises had to be registered, provided that the storage premises did not consist of a shop, bakehouse or any establishment registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

A detailed inspection of these storage premises was completed and in each case it was necessary for improvements to be carried out. These were mainly in connection with washing facilities, re-construction of floors, etc. The number entered in the register totalled 3. The number of Food Hawkers far exceeded this number by reason of the fact that storage premises were in an adjoining district, or alternatively that they were covered by registration.

The number applying for registration, and entered on the register was 28, which includes 11 dealing in bread and confectionery, 8 dealing in fish, fruit and vegetables, 7 dealing in ice cream, and 2 with general foodstuffs. The general standard of these vehicles is satisfactory.

Rodent Control

The general inspection under this heading is carried out by the inspectors, whilst the work of treatment is carried out by a part-time rodent operative. This work appears to be ever increasing, and during the year 45 premises were given full treatment. Only in one instance was the infestation severe. Details of the premises treated are as follows:—

Refuse Disposal Sites ...	...	...	7
Salvage Depot ...	...	...	3
Private Dwellinghouses ...	...	...	26
Business Premises ...	...	...	19
			—
			55

In order that this work could be satisfactorily completed, 220 inspections and visits were made. The work for the most part was carried out with Warfarin, the use of sausage rusk and zinc phosphide being at least temporarily abandoned. The results have been highly satisfactory, and in no instance where Warfarin has been used has a re-infestation developed. The use of sausage rusk and zinc phosphide has, however, been used on the refuse disposal sites and at the salvage depot, and the results have been quite satisfactory, although due to the general position of the latter, re-infestation has occurred. The tips are therefore constantly under observation. The sewers in the district have again been treated on approved lines, and details of these are set out below:—

Section	No. of Man-holes	No. not baited	No. Baited	Pre-bait taken			
				C	P	Total Takes	N.T.
Millbank/Triangle ...	69	34	35	2	2	4	31
Sowerby/Triangle ...	65	28	37	3	4	7	30
Luddenden Foot Dist. ...	77	15	62	12	4	16	46
Midgley District ...	67	51	16	—	—	—	16
Sowerby/Ludd. Foot ...	99	52	47	—	—	—	47
Sowerby Bridge Sec. 1 ...	92	59	33	9	1	10	23
Sowerby Bridge Sec. 2 ...	124	64	60	21	12	33	27
Sowerby Bridge Sec. 3 ...	121	49	72	11	4	15	57

C — Complete Take P — Partial Take NT — No Take

A test bait of the entire sewerage system of the district was undertaken prior to the maintenance treatment being commenced, and it was again pleasing to note that there was a reduced take over the previous year. The black spots were similar to those in previous years, being almost without exception close to rivers, food shops and storm water overflows. The number of manholes showing signs of infestation was considerably less than the previous years, and it was again pleasing to note that the sewers on the Beechwood Housing Estate and the sewers in the Midgley area were completely free from infestation. The dwellinghouses throughout the district are still treated free of charge, but a charge is made for rodent work at all business premises, this being based on the length of time devoted to the work and the amount of bait used. A considerable number of these treatments have been carried out as a result of complaint, but others have been undertaken as a result of routine inspection.

Registration of Hairdressers and Premises

The inspection and registration of Hairdressers and their establishments are also new provisions under the West Riding (General Powers) Act.

During the year 43 inspections were made, and it was found that the general conditions were fairly good, although a great variation in standard was observed. It is felt, however, that these provisions have gone far in abolishing such businesses as those in inadequately equipped and unsuitable rooms of private dwellinghouses. Since the inspections have been carried out there has been considerable levelling up of all these establishments, which have now resulted in a very satisfactory standard being achieved, one of the most satisfying results being the provision of sterilising cabinets for the equipment.

The hairdressers generally have welcomed these provisions, and I feel that it has brought about a greater sense of responsibility amongst the hairdressers towards the public, realising as they do that even in hairdressing diseases of the hair and scalp can be spread if every precaution, especially regarding the use of clean equipment, is not observed.

A continued check is being made from time to time, and so far it is pleasing to note that the general high standard is being maintained.

